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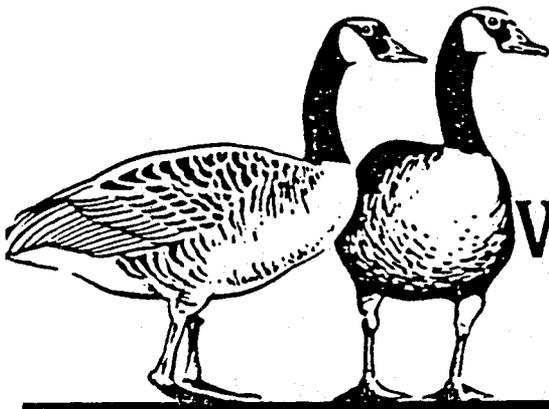
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PERIODIC REPORT NO. 79  
29 April 1994

# WATERFOWL PROGRAM

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS OF REND LAKE GOOSE HUNTERS  
FOLLOWING THE 1992 SEASON

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**Abstract:** Rend Lake goose hunters were sampled via mail-letter questionnaire (n=441, 79% response) to determine their attitudes toward and opinions of selected goose hunting regulations in the Rend Lake Quota Zone (RLQZ). Names and addresses of the hunters were obtained from license plate numbers of vehicles parked in public access lots and private lots surrounding the lake. The sampling procedure emphasized ardent (frequent) hunters and hunters who used the public hunting area (PHA). Respondents averaged 40 years of age, and they traveled an average distance (one way) of 82 miles to hunt geese in the RLQZ in 1992-93. One-fourth (24%) of the hunters lived in the RLQZ (Franklin and Jefferson counties) and 30% resided in the East St. Louis metropolitan area (Madison and St. Clair counties). Approximately 90% of the hunters were active on the PHA, 18% were active on commercial goose hunting clubs, and 30% were active on private property. They hunted an average of 16.1 days and harvested an average of 3.03 Canada geese. Majorities (>50%) of the hunters voiced support for maintaining the minimum legal distance between blinds (parties) on the PHA at 200 yards, imposing a limit of 10 shotgun shells per hunter on the PHA, and creating a controlled goose hunting area on the west side of Rend Lake. About 44% of the hunters favored 3 hunters per blind (party) and 47% favored 4 hunters per blind (party). The hunters failed to express a consensus for legal time to depart the boat ramps and parking lots on the lake (currently not restricted) or for legal closing time (currently 1 pm on the PHA and 3 pm in the remainder of the RLQZ). The management implications of these findings are discussed.

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Rend Lake, located in Franklin and Jefferson counties, is one of the largest and most diverse waterfowl management areas in Illinois (Whitton 1993). The lake's 19,000 acres of water and the

21,000 acres of surrounding public land offer excellent hunting opportunities for both geese and ducks. Approximately 13,000 acres of land and water, including 2 subimpoundments, are managed jointly by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Department of Conservation (DOC) (Whitton 1993). Additional hunting occurs on commercial goose clubs and other private areas in the vicinity of Rend Lake. According to the annual Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey, an average of 6,141 goose hunters expended an average of 41,262 days afield and harvested an average of 10,093 Canada geese in Franklin and Jefferson counties during the 1988-1992 seasons (Anderson and Williamson 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994).

To regulate the harvest of Canada geese, all of Franklin and Jefferson counties was designated as the Rend Lake Quota Zone (RLQZ) in 1986 (Whitton 1993). The length of the goose hunting season was determined by a specified number of days or when a predetermined number of Canada geese was harvested, whichever occurred first. In the 8 years following implementation of the quota zone, the quota was never reached prior to expiration of the maximum number of days. The protection afforded by the RLQZ allows relatively liberal goose hunting regulations but insures against over harvest in an area where Canada geese are highly concentrated.

Because the RLQZ is large, diverse, and heavily utilized, goose hunting regulations in this zone are the subject of much interest and, at times, controversy. As such, it is important to know how the "average" or "rank-in-file" goose hunter feels about hunting regulations in the zone. The purpose of the present study was to determine, via mail-letter survey, the attitudes and

opinions of RLQZ goose hunters following the 1992-93 season.

#### METHODS AND MATERIALS

The mailing list for this survey included the names of 607 Illinois residents. The names (and addresses) were derived from license plate numbers of vehicles parked in public access lots and private lots surrounding the lake during the goose hunting season. License plate numbers were recorded on 12 separate days. A stratified randomized procedure was used to insure that hunters who were active on weekdays and hunters who were active on weekends/holidays were proportionally represented. This procedure tended to over represent ardent (frequent) goose hunters and to under represent hunters who were active away from the immediate vicinity of Rend Lake.

The questionnaire for this survey (Fig. 1) and a letter of explanation (Fig. 2) were initially mailed on 16 March 1993. Non-respondents were sent a 2nd copy of the questionnaire and another letter (Fig. 3) on 27 April. As of 8 June 1993, 477 questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 79%. Because 36 of the respondents did not hunt geese in the RLQZ, the usable sample size was reduced to 441 active hunters.

Data were transferred from the filled-out questionnaires to a computer file using a data management program (Ashton-Tate dBASE III+). The data were analyzed with a statistical program (SPSS, Inc. SPSS/PC+V2.0).

## HUNTING REGULATIONS in RLQZ DURING 1992-93 SEASON

The hunting season for Canada geese extended from 14 November 1992 to 31 January 1993, for a total of 79 days. The bag limit allowed 2 Canada geese per day and 10 Canada geese in possession. Legal shooting time was 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 pm on the Rend Lake Public Hunting Area (PHA) and from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 pm in the remainder of the RLQZ. Blinds (hunting parties) had to be a minimum of 200 yards apart on the PHA and commercial goose clubs. A maximum of 3 goose hunters was allowed per blind (party). The earliest that hunters could legally depart from the boat ramps and parking lots on the subimpoundments was 4:30 am. Hunters who pursued waterfowl on the main body of the lake and on public areas outside the subimpoundments had no restrictions on departure time. There were no shotgun shell limits for goose hunters on the PHA or in the remainder of the RLQZ.

## RESULTS

## Age, Residence, and Distance Traveled

Goose hunters in the RLQZ averaged 40 years of age, and they traveled an average distance (one way) of 82 miles to hunt geese (Table 1). One-fourth (24%) of the hunters resided in the RLQZ (Franklin and Jefferson counties) and 30% lived in the East St. Louis metropolitan area (Madison and St. Clair counties), which is located about 75 miles northwest of Rend Lake. An additional 20% of the goose hunters came from 5 other counties, and the final 26% were distributed among 41 counties.

## Hunting Activities

Among the 441 goose hunters, 90% were active on the PHA, 18% were active on commercial goose hunting clubs, 20% were active on private (non-commercial) property, and <1% were active on other areas (Table 2). The only area listed under the latter category was Ten Mile Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area.

For the entire RLQZ, goose hunters spent an average of 16.1 days afield, and they harvested an average of 3.03 Canada geese, during the 1992 season (Table 2). Approximately 52% of the hunters said they hunted ducks and geese at the same time, on an average of 6.4 days, at Rend Lake. In comparison, the 1992 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey indicated that RLQZ goose hunters spent an average of 6.7 days afield and harvested an average of 1.22 Canada geese (Anderson and Williamson 1994).

## Opinions and Attitudes

Legal Shooting Time. For the PHA, a plurality (37%) of the hunters preferred changing daily closing time for goose hunting to 3 pm (Table 3). PHA hunters were more interested in having a 3 pm closing for the PHA than were commercial club hunters and private property hunters. In fact, pluralities (37% and 35%) of the latter two groups preferred that closing time on the PHA remain at 1 pm.

For commercial clubs, a plurality (41%) of all hunters felt that goose hunting should stop at 3 pm (Table 3). This attitude prevailed among PHA hunters, commercial club hunters, and private property hunters.

On private property, pluralities of PHA hunters (49%), commercial clubs hunters (47%), and all hunters (49%) voted to extend shooting time to sunset (Table 3). Two-thirds (65%) of the hunters who were active on private property preferred a sunset closing.

Legal Departure Time From Boat Ramps and Parking Lots. When asked to express their opinions of the earliest time that goose hunters who hunt the waters of Rend Lake should be allowed to depart from boat ramps and parking lots, a plurality (46%) of the hunters indicated 4:30 am (Table 4). The remaining hunters were about evenly divided among midnight (13%), 3 am (16%), and 5:30 am (15%). A plurality (47%) of PHA hunters preferred 4:30 am as the legal time for departing from the boat ramps and parking lots.

Hunters Allowed Per Blind. Regarding the maximum number of hunters allowed per blind (party), the hunters were about equally divided between 3 (44%) and 4 (47%) (Table 5). PHA hunters and private property hunters exhibited a preference for 4 hunters (50% and 52%, respectively) over 3 hunters (41% and 34%). However, commercial club hunters had the opposite view--58% voted for a maximum of 3 hunters and 29% chose 4 hunters. Only 5% of the hunters thought the maximum number of goose hunters per blind (party) should be increased to 5 or 6.

Minimum Distance Between Hunting Parties. An overwhelming majority (73%) of the hunters supported the current 200 yards minimum distance requirement between blinds (parties) on the PHA (Table 6). About 16% opted for 300 yards, and only 10% thought the distance should be decreased to 100 yards. These sentiments

prevailed among PHA hunters, commercial club hunters, and private property hunters.

Shotgun Shell Limit. A majority (54) of the hunters agreed with the idea of imposing a limit of 10 shotgun shells (5 per goose in the daily bag) per hunter on the PHA (Table 7). This opinion was more strongly expressed by commercial club hunters (64%) and private property hunters (66%) than by PHA hunters (53%). However, 44% of all hunters and 45% of PHA hunters disagreed with the idea of imposing a shotgun shell limit on the PHA.

Controlled Goose Hunting Area. A majority (60%) of the hunters liked the idea of creating a controlled goose hunting area on the west side of Rend Lake (Table 8). Only one-third (33%) of the hunters disagreed with this idea. The strongest support for a controlled hunting area came from commercial club hunters (73%); private property hunters also showed a relatively high level of support (63%). Although PHA hunters exhibited the least support, a majority (58%) of this group also was in favor of a controlled hunting area.

Slightly more than one-half (54%) of the hunters said they would hunt on the controlled goose hunting area if it were created (Table 8).

#### Rating Goose Hunting At Rend Lake

When asked to rate the goose hunting at Rend Lake, a plurality (43%) of the hunters thought it was "about the same" as goose hunting in other areas (Table 9). The hunters were much more apt to rate Rend Lake goose hunting as "better" (32%) than as "worst"

(17%), compared to other areas.

#### DISCUSSION

It should be kept in mind that the goose hunters who participated in this survey were strongly oriented toward the PHA at Rend Lake. As such, the overall attitudes and opinions expressed by the hunters were biased in favor of the thinking or mindset of those who used the PHA. In this context, note that 90% of the hunters were active on the PHA and only 38% were active on commercial goose clubs and/or other private areas (Table 2). This is in contrast to the distribution of the Canada goose harvest, 35% of which occurs on the PHA and 65% takes place on private land in Franklin and Jefferson counties (Thornburg 1987, Anderson et al. 1994).

Majorities (>50%) of the hunters--whether on the PHA, commercial clubs, or private property--voiced support for maintaining the minimum legal distance between blinds (parties) on the PHA at 200 yards, imposing a limit of 10 shotgun shells per hunter (5 shells per Canada goose in the daily bag limit) on the PHA, and creating a controlled goose hunting area on the west side of Rend Lake (Tables 6, 7, and 8). Support for maintaining the 200-yard limit (73%) was clearly a mandate, and support for creating a controlled hunting area (60%) approached a mandate. While support for the shotgun shell limit was less than overwhelming, a majority of the hunters still prevailed. In another survey, conducted in May-June 1993, majorities of goose hunters, commercial goose club operators, and waterfowl

organizations supported establishing a shotgun shell limit in the RLQZ (Anderson and Marshalla 1993). Based on these findings, the DOC should maintain the 200-yard minimum between blinds (parties), consider imposing a shotgun shell limit on the PHA, and continue to explore the possibility of creating a controlled goose hunting area at Rend Lake.

The RLQZ hunters were far from being united in their attitudes toward legal closing time for goose hunting (Table 3). In this regard, note that less than a majority (<50%) of the hunters preferred a specific closing for the PHA, commercial goose clubs, or private property. In only one instance did a majority prevail--i.e., 65% of the private property hunters voted for sunset closure on private property. Because of this lack of a consensus, we recommend maintaining the status quo: 1 pm closure on the PHA and 3 pm closure on the commercial clubs and in the remainder of the RLQZ. There was also a lack of consensus among the hunters in their attitudes toward legal time for departing the boat ramps and parking lots on Rend Lake. The only exception was private property hunters, 52% of which voted for 4:30 am (Table 4). Strong pluralities of PHA hunters (47%), commercial goose club hunters (45%), and all hunters (46%) also preferred 4:30 am. Surprisingly, the hunters voiced relatively little support for an earlier--midnight (13%) or 3 am (16%)--departure time. If a legal departure time is to be adopted for Rend Lake, the obvious choice is 4:30 am. A 4:30 am departure time has been in effect in the subimpoundments for several years.

Overwhelming majorities (86-91%) of all groups of hunters preferred either 3 or 4 hunters per blind (party) in the RLQZ (Table 5). For all hunters combined, 44% voted for 3 hunters and 47% voted for 4 hunters. Based on these findings, the number of goose hunters allowed per blind (party) should remain at 3 or possibly be increased to 4. Whatever the decision, the number of hunters allowed per blind (party) should be consistent throughout the RLQZ. There is virtually no support for increasing the number of hunters to 5 or 6 per blind (party).

Acknowledgements. Appreciation is extended to Dwight Menely and the Secretary of State's Office for cooperation in preparing the mailing list, and to L.K. Campbell and K.L. Benner for processing data. This study was funded in part by Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-112-R, the Illinois Department of Conservation, Illinois Natural History Survey, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, cooperating.

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Table 1. Some characteristics of goose hunters in the Rend Lake Quota Zone following the 1992 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Characteristic	Value
Mean age	(439) 39.7 years
Mean Distance traveled (one way)	(441) 81.9 miles
County of residence	(441)
Madison	17%
Jefferson	14
St. Clair	13
Franklin	10
Clinton	5
Champaign	5
Marion	5
Williamson	3
Washington	2
Remainder (41 counties)	26

Table 2. Goose hunting activities in the Rend Lake Quota Zone during the 1992 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Characteristic	Value
Where hunted	(441)
Public hunting area	90%
Commercial clubs	18
Private property	20
Other areas	<1
Days afield and geese harvested	(441)
Mean days	16.1
Mean Canada geese	3.03
Mean other geese	0.02
Hunted ducks and geese at same time	(441)
Response	52% yes
Mean days	6.4 days

Table 3. Opinions of goose hunters as to the time that goose hunting should stop in the Rend Lake Quota Zone. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question,  
 "In your opinion, at what time should goose hunting stop at Rend Lake?"

ON PUBLIC HUNTING AREA

	<u>PHA Hunters</u> (395)	<u>Commercial Club Hunters</u> (79)	<u>Private Property Hunters</u> (89)	<u>All Hunters</u> (438)
11am	1%	0%	3%	1+3% <sup>a</sup>
12noon	4	15	8	5+3
1pm	35	37	35	34+4
3pm	37	28	30	37+4
Sunset	23	20	24	23+4

ON COMMERCIAL CLUBS

	<u>PHA Hunters</u> (381)	<u>Commercial Club Hunters</u> (79)	<u>Private Property Hunters</u> (88)	<u>All Hunters</u> (424)
11am	2%	0%	1%	2+3%
12noon	7	9	10	7+3
1pm	27	11	24	25+4
3pm	40	42	33	41+5
Sunset	24	38	32	25+4

ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

	<u>PHA Hunters</u> (380)	<u>Commercial Club Hunters</u> (78)	<u>Private Property Hunters</u> (90)	<u>All Hunters</u> (423)
11am	1%	0%	1%	1+3%
12noon	4	8	3	4+3
1pm	15	8	8	13+3
3pm	31	37	23	33+4
Sunset	49	47	65	49+5

<sup>a</sup>The 95% confidence interval.

Table 4. Opinions of goose hunters as to the earliest time that goose hunters who hunt the waters of Rend Lake should be allowed to depart from the boat ramps and parking lots. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question,

"In your opinion, what is the earliest time that goose hunters who hunt the waters of Rend Lake (i.e., the lake, not subimpoundments) be permitted to depart from the boat ramps and parking lots?"

	<u>PHA Hunters</u> (387)	<u>Commercial Club Hunters</u> (78)	<u>Private Property Hunters</u> (87)	<u>All Hunters</u> (431)
Midnight	14%	9%	20%	13±3*
3am	18	9	11	16±3
4:30am	47	45	52	46±5
5:30am	13	20	11	15±3
No opinion	8	17	6	10±5

\*The 95% confidence interval.

Table 5. Opinions of goose hunters as to the number of hunters that should be allowed per blind (party) for goose hunting in the Rend Lake Quota Zone. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question,  
 "In your opinion, how many hunters should be allowed per blind for goose hunting at Rend Lake?"

	<u>PHA Hunters</u> (396)	<u>Commercial Club Hunters</u> (79)	<u>Private Property Hunters</u> (90)	<u>All Hunters</u> (440)
1	0%	0%	0%	0±3% <sup>a</sup>
2	2	5	3	3±3
3	41	58	34	44±5
4	50	29	52	47±5
5	4	5	9	4±3
6	2	0	2	1±3
No opinion	1	3	0	1±3

<sup>a</sup>The 95% confidence interval.

Table 6. Opinions of goose hunters as to the minimum legal distance that goose hunting parties must be spaced apart on the Rend Lake Public Hunting Area. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question,  
 "What is your opinion of the minimum legal distance that goose hunting parties must be spaced apart on the Rend Lake Public Hunting Area?"

	<u>PHA Hunters</u> (397)	<u>Commercial Club Hunters</u> (79)	<u>Private Property Hunters</u> (90)	<u>All Hunters</u> (441)
100 yards	9%	13%	11%	10+3% <sup>a</sup>
200 yards	75	65	75	73+4
300 yards	16	16	14	16+3
No opinion	<1	6	0	1+3

<sup>a</sup>The 95% confidence interval.

Table 7. Attitudes of goose hunters toward imposing a shotgun shell limit on goose hunters who use the Rend Lake Public Hunting Area. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question,

"Do you agree or disagree with the idea of limiting goose hunters to 10 shotgun shells (i.e., 5 shells per Canada goose in the daily bag limit) on the Rend Lake Public Hunting Area?"

	<u>PHA Hunters</u> (394)	<u>Commercial Club Hunters</u> (79)	<u>Private Property Hunters</u> (90)	<u>All Hunters</u> (438)
Agree	53%	64%	66%	54±5% <sup>a</sup>
Disagree	45	32	33	44±5
No opinion	2	4	1	2±3

<sup>a</sup>The 95% confidence interval.

Table 8. Attitudes of goose hunters toward creating a controlled goose hunting area at Rend Lake. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the following questions:

"Consideration is being given to creating a controlled goose hunting area (with check station and staked hunting sites) on the west side of Rend Lake, between Jackie Branch and the country line (see map). This area would encompass about 200 acres of land along and within 200 yards of the shore, and it would accommodate about 33 hunting parties. The lands surrounding this controlled area would still be available to the public on a first come--first served basis, with the provision that the hunters must stay at least 200 yards outside the nearest stake. With these facts in mind, do you like or dislike the idea of creating this controlled goose hunting area?"

	<u>PHA Hunters</u> (395)	<u>Commercial Club Hunters</u> (79)	<u>Private Property Hunters</u> (90)	<u>All Hunters</u> (439)
Like	58%	73%	63%	60+5%*
Dislike	36	14	32	33+4
Don't know	6	13	5	7+3

"If created, would you hunt on this controlled goose hunting area?"

	<u>PHA Hunters</u> (393)	<u>Commercial Club Hunters</u> (79)	<u>Private Property Hunters</u> (89)	<u>All Hunters</u> (437)
Yes	53%	58%	55%	54+5%
No	24	10	25	22+4
Don't know	23	32	20	24+4

\*The 95% confidence interval.

Table 9. How goose hunters rate goose hunting in the Rend Lake Quota Zone. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question,  
 "Compared to other goose hunting areas in Illinois, how do you rate goose hunting at Rend Lake?"

	<u>PHA Hunters</u> (396)	<u>Commercial Club Hunters</u> (77)	<u>Private Property Hunters</u> (90)	<u>All Hunters</u> (439)
Worst	18%	17%	28%	17±4% <sup>a</sup>
About the same	42	39	35	43±5
Better	32	38	28	32±4
No opinion	8	6	9	8±3

<sup>a</sup>The 95% confidence interval.

1992 REND LAKE GOOSE HUNTER SURVEY

INSTRUCTIONS

Please answer the questions on the following pages regarding your goose hunting at Rend Lake during the 1992-93 season.

The questionnaire is divided into three parts: General Information, Goose Hunting Activities, and Your Opinion of selected topics.

Report only your kill. DO NOT report the kill of others with whom you may have hunted.

Write in the number of days on which you hunted geese at Rend Lake. Include your unsuccessful days.

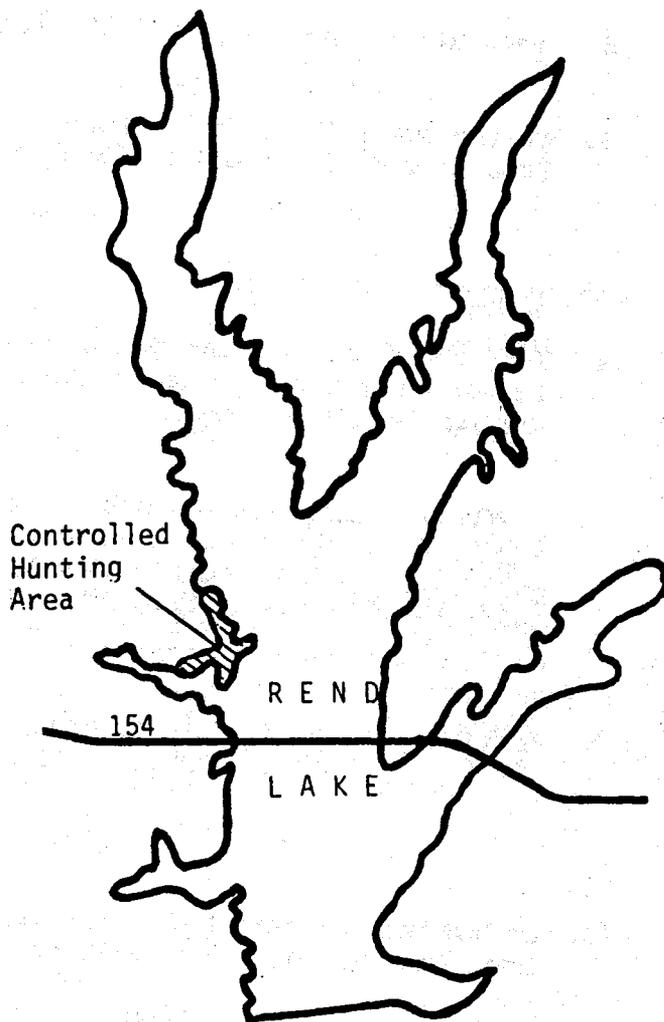
If you can't remember the exact figures, give your best estimate.

When completed, insert questionnaire into the self-addressed envelope and mail.

POSTAGE IS PREPAID.

Thank you for your cooperation

Figure 1. The questionnaire used for the Rend Lake Goose Hunter Survey following the 1992 season.



Your comments are welcome but please write them on the separate paper provided to receive proper attention.

Figure 1 - continued.

1992 REND LAKE GOOSE HUNTER SURVEY  
(see instructions on first page)

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. What is the name of the county in which you currently reside?

Name of county \_\_\_\_\_

2. How old were you on your last birthday?..... \_\_\_\_\_ years.

3. On the average, about how many miles did you travel (one way) to hunt geese at Rend Lake during the 1992-93 season?

Number of miles \_\_\_\_\_

GOOSE HUNTING ACTIVITIES

4. List the number of days you hunted geese and the number of geese you personally harvested in the Rend Lake Quota Zone (i.e., in Franklin and Jefferson counties) during the 1992-93 season.

	<u>Days</u>	<u>Canada Geese</u>	<u>Other Geese</u>
*On Rend Lake Public Hunting Area.....	_____	_____	_____
*On Commercial Goose Hunting Clubs.....	_____	_____	_____
*On Private (non-commercial) Property...	_____	_____	_____
*On Other Areas or Property (write in name) _____	_____	_____	_____

5. Did you also hunt ducks at Rend Lake during the 1992-93 season?  
(circle number for appropriate answer)

Yes.....1      No.....2

6. On how many different days did you hunt both ducks and geese at the same time at Rend Lake during the 1992-93 season?

Days hunting both ducks and geese..... \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR OPINION

7. In your opinion, at what time should goose hunting stop at Rend Lake?  
(circle one number for appropriate answer for each type of area)

<u>Area</u>	<u>11am</u>	<u>12noon</u>	<u>1pm</u>	<u>3pm</u>	<u>Sunset</u>
Rend Lake Public Hunting Area.....	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Commercial Goose Hunting Clubs....	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Other Private Property.....	1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....

8. In your opinion, what is the earliest time that goose hunters who hunt the waters of Rend Lake (i.e., the lake, not subimpoundments) be permitted to depart from the boat ramps and parking lots? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Midnight...1      3am...2      4:30am...3      5:30am...4      No opinion...5

9. In your opinion, how many hunters should be allowed per blind for goose hunting at Rend Lake? (circle number for appropriate answer)

1      2      3      4      5      6      No opinion...7

10. What is your opinion of the minimum legal distance that goose hunting parties must be spaced apart on the Rend Lake Public Hunting Area? (circle number for appropriate answer)

100 yards...1      200 yards...2      300 yards...3      No opinion...4

11. Do you agree or disagree with the idea of limiting goose hunters to 10 shotgun shells (i.e., 5 shells per Canada goose in the daily bag limit) on the Rend Lake Public Hunting Area? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Agree.....1      Disagree.....2      No opinion.....3

12. Consideration is being given to creating a controlled goose hunting area (with check station and staked hunting sites) on the west side of Rend Lake, between Jackie Branch and the county line (see map). This area would encompass about 200 acres of land along and within 200 yards of the shore, and it would accommodate about 33 hunting parties. The lands surrounding this controlled area would still be available to the public on a first come--first served basis, with the provision that the hunters must stay at least 200 yards outside the nearest stake. With these facts in mind, do you like or dislike the idea of creating this controlled goose hunting area? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Like.....1      Dislike.....2      No opinion.....3

13. If created, would you hunt on this controlled goose hunting area? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Yes.....1      No.....2      Don't know.....3

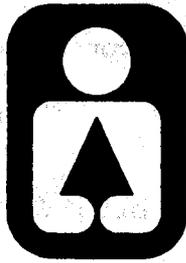
14. Compared to other goose hunting areas in Illinois, how do you rate goose hunting at Rend Lake? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Worst.....1      About the same...2      Better...3      No opinion...4

Thank you for your cooperation

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life and land together

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Assistant Director

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787  
CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH 60601

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

You are one of a select group of goose hunters asked to provide information about your hunting activities at Rend Lake during the past hunting season.

The information supplied by you and other selected hunters is important to the management of our goose flock: (1) to safeguard Canada goose populations, (2) to grant maximum goose hunting opportunities to license holders, and (3) to maintain an attractive level of hunter success.

The information you provide is used to better understand the welfare of the goose population. This information includes distribution of total harvest, number of hunters, and hunting success.

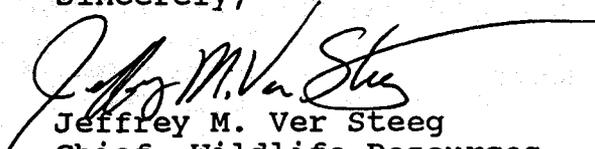
Your reply is very important, even if you did not hunt geese or you were not successful. Only a limited number of goose hunters can be contacted, therefore, your response is urgently needed.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the parts of the enclosed questionnaire that apply to you. If you do not remember exact figures, please give your best estimates.

Drop the completed questionnaire in the mail. Postage is prepaid.

Yours for better goose hunting.

Sincerely,

  
Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg  
Chief, Wildlife Resources

JMV:WLA  
Enclosure  
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Figure 2. The letter that accompanied the first mailing of the questionnaire.

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Illinois



Department of Conservation

life and land together

Brent Manning  
Director

John W. Comerio  
Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay  
Assistant Director

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CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH 60601

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

This letter is to remind you that we still would like to receive a report of your goose hunting activities at Rend Lake during the past season. We don't like to keep bothering you, but this information is very important which only you can provide.

Another copy of the questionnaire is enclosed. We hope you will complete it and return it as soon as possible. If you have already returned a questionnaire, please destroy this one. Your response is needed--even though you did not hunt geese at Rend Lake or you had an unsuccessful season.

Postage is prepaid for returning the questionnaire. Just fill it out and drop it in the mail. Please help us complete this survey by sending your questionnaire now. Your prompt attention will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg  
Chief, Wildlife Resources

JMV:WLA  
Enclosure  
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Figure 3. The letter that accompanied the second mailing of the questionnaire.

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